

**To the Honorable Judiciary  
Committee members and The  
Honorable State of Connecticut  
General Assembly**

**March 11, 2013**

***Fr: Reverend, Russell L. Carmichael olb., OSB  
236 Hempstead Street, New London Ct. 06320  
Fax: 860-444-1952 Ph: 860-908-7871  
e-mail [rcarmichael1316@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rcarmichael1316@sbcglobal.net)  
Web: [www.nlhome.org](http://www.nlhome.org)***

***Re: AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
CONNECTICUT SENTENCING  
COMMISSION REGARDING LENGTHY  
SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED  
BY A CHILD OR YOUTH. Bill # 6581  
LCO No. 4190  
(04190\_\_\_\_\_JUD)***

***I am addressing you today not as a minister, not as a voting Citizen of Connecticut; but rather as a reformed ex-felon. I say reformed, with more than thirty - five years, of being a contributing member of society; as a person who has changed from what one Justice stated:***

***“you are a shark on the fundamental values of the United States of America” to what I believe is a level of change and commitment to the service of our community and others not marked by many who come out of a life dedicated to crime. I was a career criminal that survived one of the most violent prisons in our Country in the late 60’s and 70’s..***

***I was twenty-five when I went to State prison in Massachusetts. I was a full grown man with four children.. I was deemed incorrigible and a career Criminal by the Institution at that time.***

***My journey to the straight life was long and arduous. I had little help; but those***

*that did offer a hand up were paramount in my development and until my Spiritual conversion I may have been a lost cause; but for having the addiction I developed for helping others less fortunate than myself.*

*So I am here to day to tell you, this a good Bill that you are putting forth; a bill that foster hope for the young and undeveloped that made drastic mistakes in their young life. With this bill you as law developers are lifting up our community and strengthening it with wisdom. Science tells us that at these early ages the brain is not fully developed and it subjects its owners, to making perilous mistakes, which effects them for life. However, the brain changes and it can change in the positive direction that society is looking for; and we as a society need to capitalize on is that scientific fact..*

*So we need to be open to the chance for change with a wise system of structure,*

*development and observation. Which I believe that this bill provides for us and is a great and meaningful step forward in that direction.*

*Thank you and may I say to all of you.*

*Bless you in your work...*

*Fr. Russ*

## *Activities:*

*President/Founder: New London Grassroots Homeless Coalition Ministries, Inc.*

*Host: TV show MetroCast #25 "Street-Talk" (public access)*

*Producer: TV show MetroCast #24 "struggle for Justice"*

*Director: Home Health Care*

*Chairman/Founder: NPRA (National Prisoner Rights Association)*

*[www.nlhome.org](http://www.nlhome.org)*

*[www.freeralphamm.org](http://www.freeralphamm.org)*